



## COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

### DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy September, District 4!

As we head into the fall and back-to-school season, I want to thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts on the issues that matter most in our community.

Your input continues to guide my work at Regional Council, whether it's addressing traffic and road safety, supporting parks and recreation, or planning for future growth in District 4.

This time of year is always busy, and I remain committed to ensuring your voices are heard as decisions are made and to keeping you informed along the way.

As always, I'm here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office with your questions, concerns, or feedback. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Trish Purdy*

September 2025

### COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY DROP-IN



Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

**Tim Hortons - Forest Hills Parkway**  
**Friday, September 19, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

### COMMUNITY CORNER

#### Ross Road Realignment Update:

In August, the project kick-off meeting was held with staff, followed by an on-site walk-through of the project. Survey collection has now begun, and the geotechnical investigation has been completed. We are getting closer to the anticipated start of construction in 2026!



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### Development in District 4:

Over the past few years, several new Provincial and Federal housing initiatives have significantly changed the landscape of development in HRM. Planning and Development has provided the following information to help explain how we got here:

The Province's Lands for Housing program identifies vacant provincially owned properties that could be developed for housing. Once identified, the Province enters into agreements with private developers to build housing, with the condition that a portion of the units include affordable housing. This process takes place entirely at the Provincial level, with no direct involvement from HRM, though all developments must comply with the Municipality's zoning requirements and regulations. To learn more about the Lands for Housing program, visit the [website](#).

For several sites, the Province requested that HRM expand development rights by adding the properties to the Suburban Housing Accelerator Plan (SHA) and By-law. This request was included in the public engagement for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) amendments and was approved by Regional Council in May 2024. With these changes, development can now proceed as-of-right if it complies with the HA Zone. This includes a height limit of 3 storeys for Sherwood Street and 5 storeys for Broom Road. The full HA Zone regulations are available in the [Suburban Housing Accelerator Land Use By-law](#).

### Sherwood St:

Lot clearing has finished in preparation for the first phase of construction. The first phase is planned to commence in 2025 and will consist of 6 Townhomes and a 69-unit building. The

development is expected to take 3-4 years for all 4 buildings.

### Broom Road:

Lot clearing has started, and the water and sewer infrastructure is planned to start in 2025. The first phase, consisting of 10, R2 lots and a 6-unit townhome is planned to begin in 2025, and Building A is scheduled to begin construction in the fall of 2026. This development is expected to take 5-6 years for all 5 buildings.

### Land Development of Akoma:

Development plans for the Akoma properties are awaiting the findings of the highly anticipated [Future Serviced Community Study](#) and the [Main Street / Hwy 7 Functional Plan](#).

A 144 bed Long Term Care facility with Northwood will soon be underway off the Old Miller Road. These comprehensive, municipal-level reviews will deliver critical recommendations on infrastructure extensions, land suitability, transportation needs, and environmental considerations.

It will also guide HRM in deciding the next steps for secondary planning in the Westphal area.

### Advanced Left-Turn Arrow at Forest Hills/Merrimac/Circassian Intersection:

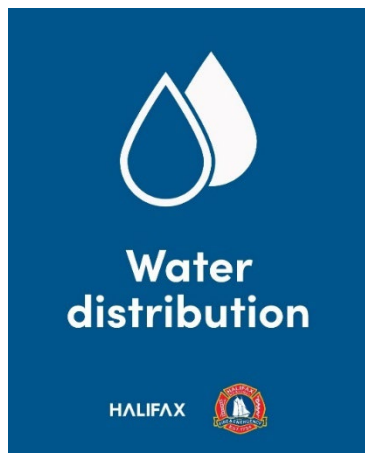
We have finally seen the placement of this much needed advanced left turning arrow at a very busy intersection. Thank you to all of the residents who reached out to me, and for your continued patience until the staff were able to implement the new system!



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### WATER DISTRIBUTION IN HRM



The Halifax Regional Municipality is experiencing extremely dry conditions due to a prolonged period without significant rainfall. Surface water and groundwater levels are below normal, leaving many private

wells dry. Prolonged drought can strain municipal water supplies, making water conservation essential.

Beginning Aug. 13, the municipality will provide pre-packaged drinking water on Wednesdays and Sundays for individuals in need of potable water due to dry wells at five rural facilities across the municipality:

Fire Station 39, 14 NS-336, Upper Musquodoboit

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 48, 1581 Beaverbank Road

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 50, 2050 Hammonds Plains Road

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fire Station 56, 8579 St Margarets Bay Road

- Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sheet Harbour Ground Search and Rescue, 44 Behie Road

- Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sundays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The municipality is following provincial guidelines, provided by the Canadian Red Cross, to distribute four litres of water per person per day. Water is also available for pets, based on their weight.

This process will remain in place **until Sept. 10**, when Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency will reassess whether ongoing water shortage efforts are needed.

For full details, please click [here](#).

Shower access is also available for residents with dry wells

Some recreation facilities have made their showers available to residents affected by dry wells during the drought. These include:

Canada Games Centre, 26 Thomas Raddall Drive

- 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Prospect Road Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Road

- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forest Hills Parkway

- Weekdays: 6 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m.;
- Weekends: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This list may be updated as demand changes.





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## DISTRICT 4 SPECIAL PLANNING AREAS

An Executive Panel on Housing has been created by the Province of Nova Scotia to help accelerate housing in the province. There have been 16 designated [Special Planning Areas](#) (SPA's) announced in the HRM with two of the SPA's in District 4.

The developments will go through an approval process via the Executive Panel on Housing and not the traditional Council approval process. The Minister has been given a special designation to make planning decisions on these developments in the SPA's.

### 1226 Cole Harbour

The applicant has applied for their grade alteration permit, submitting all required documentation, and the review process for all the details submitted is now underway. The proposed application includes a 144-unit long term care facility in phase 1, and 4 apartment buildings with a total of 511 units in phase 2. Building heights are proposed at 8 to 12 storeys. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Westphal Urban Reserve

This area is approximately 450 hectares of land south of Hwy 7 and west of Ross Road and includes the Akoma-owned lands (approx. 50 acres). The development of these lands is contingent on the Future Serviced Communities study sanctioned by the Province. Click [here](#) for more information.

## HALIFAX TRANSIT – CORE SERVICE PLAN



Please take some time to fill out this important survey regarding the future of Transit. The municipality is seeking your input on:

- bus routes that need more frequent service;
- new and modified routes designed to support our growing municipality;
- your travel habits and the routes you take; and
- feedback on long-term transit initiatives.

Residents will also be able to provide feedback through various in-person engagement sessions which will be made available on our website.

Halifax Transit is evolving planning to focus on short-term improvements to our transit network. Unlike Halifax Transit's previous five-year planning process, this three-year plan will allow for a more agile model that responds to the evolving needs of residents.

Your input will inform the creation of a new Core Service Plan launching in 2025. To take the survey, please click [here](#).

## RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES



When batteries end up in the garbage, they can start fires. Please recycle yours responsibly.

To find drop-off locations visit [here](#) and for more information visit our [website](#).



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### VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

#### Water Conservation Tips



Only flush toilet paper, pee, and poo. Only flush when necessary.



Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.



Don't use hot water to thaw frozen foods. Take foods out of the freezer earlier.



Don't run the tap to get cold water, keep a water pitcher in the fridge.



Check your toilet for leaks. [halifaxwater.ca/finding-water-leaks](http://halifaxwater.ca/finding-water-leaks)



Take shorter showers. 5-minute shower = 50 L. 25-minute shower = 250 L. \*With standard shower head.



Modern dishwashers use far less water than washing dishes by hand.



Ensure the dishwasher has a full load before you turn it on.



Installing water-saving shower heads can save 30 litres every ten minutes.



Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small drip can waste 75 litres + per day.



Ensure the washing machine has a full load before turning it on.



Reuse cooking water for watering household plants.

For more information visit [halifaxwater.ca](http://halifaxwater.ca)



Due to the recent prolonged period of low precipitation, water levels within Halifax Water's supply areas have not been replenished.

To conserve water, Halifax Water is requesting that all customers and those who live or work within a building serviced by Halifax Water follow voluntary water conservation measures until further notice. By reducing our water usage, we can help ease the demand on our lakes/source water and reduce or delay the need for mandatory water conservation measures. To confirm if you are impacted, please visit [here](#).

Limit activities that use excess water, such as:

- Watering lawns.
- Washing vehicles.
- Filling pools.

Visit this [website](#) for a full list of ways to conserve water. To learn more and find further resources and a weekly water level update visit [here](#).

September 2025

### REDUCING NUISANCES FROM RODENTS AND WASTE

Every summer, the municipality receives an increase in rodent-related inquiries. While we can respond when rodents are on municipal property, near active construction sites, or as part of an unsightly property complaint, we are not able to intervene when the issue is on private property.

If you see a live or deceased rat in a municipal park, or a deceased rat in the right-of-way, call 311. If rodents are present on your own property, prompt action is important to avoid infestation.

Reducing access to food and shelter is key. This includes clearing overgrown vegetation, storing garbage and composting properly, and sealing holes or cracks around the home.

To help reduce nuisances related to green carts:

- Wrap food waste in boxboard or newspaper
- Line your bin with a paper bag
- Empty your mini-bin daily
- Set your green cart out on every collection day
- Store food scraps in the freezer when possible
- Keep carts shaded and ventilated
- Ensure lids are secure and remove bungee cords on collection day
- Report damaged carts to 311

For additional information on properly managing waste, visit [here](#). The NS Department of Natural Resources also provides information [here](#).



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## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY



As summer fades and school resumes, prioritizing traffic safety in residential areas is crucial. When students return to school, keeping them safe on the streets should be a top

concern. Here are essential tips and reminders for motorists and parents during this back-to-school season.

### Respect Speed Limits:

Obey posted speed limits, especially in school zones. Reduced speed limits during school hours protect children traveling to and from school.

### Yield to Pedestrians:

Always yield to pedestrians, especially near crosswalks and school zones. Children may not accurately judge traffic, so extra caution is necessary.

### Eliminate Distractions:

Avoid distractions like cell phones and eating while driving in residential areas. Focus entirely on the road, as children might unexpectedly enter the street.

### Stop for School Buses:

When a school bus stops, stop behind or in front of it as per local laws. Failing to do so endangers students and can lead to fines.

### Promote Walking and Biking Safely:

Consider walking or biking to school for physical activity and reduced traffic. Use designated paths and wear helmets while biking.

### Safe Routes to School:

Work with schools and parents to identify safe routes to school. This can include walking groups, carpooling, and advocating for better signage.

### Educate Children:

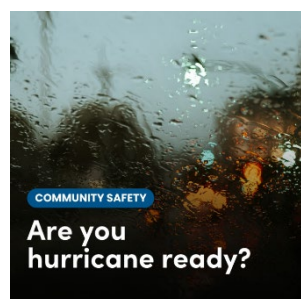
Teach children road safety, emphasizing looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

### Support Traffic Calming Measures:

Advocate for traffic calming measures like speed bumps and narrowing roadways to slow traffic and protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Back to school should be a safe and exciting time for all. By following these tips and fostering responsible driving practices in your community, we can ensure a secure environment for students year-round. Let's make our neighborhoods safer for children during this back-to-school season and beyond.

## HURRICANE READY



In an emergency like a hurricane, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72

hrs. That includes your pets! Don't forget items they'll need to stay safe and healthy. Find hurricane preparedness information [here](#).



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### UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HRM'S REGIONAL PLAN

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, the Halifax Regional Municipality received a letter from the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs in response to the municipality's submission of the updated Regional Plan.

In the letter, the Minister indicated that the Regional Plan, as submitted, could not be accepted by the province and therefore could not be approved. Underway since 2020, the Regional Planning process has incorporated years of extensive public engagement to inform updates to the 2014 Regional Plan – aimed at supporting sustainable growth across our region.

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, Regional Council [passed a motion](#) to repeal the existing 2014 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (also known as the Regional Plan) and adopt the proposed 2025 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy with related amendments to other planning documents including the Regional Subdivision By-Law, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-Laws.

In accordance with the [Halifax Regional Municipality Charter](#), adoption of the Regional Plan and other planning documents is subject to provincial review and approval.

Over the past several months, municipal Planning & Development staff have been actively working with provincial staff to address feedback that had been previously received from the province. The decision by the province to not approve any of the proposed amendments was not expected, given the ongoing collaboration with provincial

counterparts leading up to and following the submission for approval.

Moving forward, this means that the [current 2014 Regional Plan](#), last amended in May 2025, remains in effect, as the new proposed amendments have not been approved by the province. Over the coming weeks, municipal staff will re-engage with the province to determine the next steps on the planning process and ensure the Regional Plan is updated in a way that aligns with provincial interests and fulfills the municipality's obligations under existing legislation.

For more information on the Regional Plan, including a copy of the Aug 8. letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, visit the [website](#).

### SURPLUS LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT

The municipality is now accepting proposals from non-profit housing providers for the Surplus Lands for Affordable Housing Pilot Program.

Eligible entities include societies, non-profit associations, non-profit corporations and registered charities in the Halifax Regional Municipality that commit to affordable housing provision. Partnerships with the private sector are also eligible, provided the land title and administration of affordable housing remain in the name of the non-profit partner.

Applications are due by **Sept. 5, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.** Learn more about eligibility, criteria and the application process [here](#).





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### LEAF AND YARD WASTE REMOVAL



Leaf and yard waste that doesn't fit into the green cart belongs in paper yard waste bags.

Did you know that each household that receives curbside collection can place up to twenty-yard waste bags out on collection day? This makes disposing of leaf and yard waste easy.

Reminder that leaf and yard waste

- Can only go out on green cart day
- Belongs in paper yard waste bags (no plastic is accepted)
- Cannot contain grass clippings

For more information about leaf and yard waste visit [here](#).

For tips and tricks with grass clippings visit [here](#).

### HOMEMADE DECORATIONS



Party planning tip: When making homemade decorations or

purchasing decorations look for items that can be customized to a variety of themes. Whether you're organizing a backyard barbecue or a family celebration, small actions can have a big impact. Each Friday we will share a different tip to generate less waste without compromising on fun. For more wasteless tips visit [here](#).

### PVSC ASSESSMENTS



Property Valuation Services Corporation Assessors are especially busy this time of year, conducting exterior property inspections across Nova Scotia. They are reviewing building permit progress and gathering up-to-date information as part of the annual assessment process.

For your safety and peace of mind, Assessors are easy to identify with PVSC-marked vehicles, PVSC-issued ID, and high-visibility vests.

You don't need to be home for these visits. The Assessor will leave contact information and the next steps if a follow-up is needed. Learn more about their fieldwork [here](#).





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### DISTRICT 4 TOWN HALLS

**Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Henry Bauld Center  
35 Wilfred Jackson Way, Westphal, NS  
B2Z 1A8

**Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Cole Harbour Place, Westphal Room  
51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth, NS  
B2W 6C6

### 2025 VOLUNTEER AWARDS



The 2025 District 4 Volunteer Award Winners.

Once again, I would like to give congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Rasleen, Terra, Paula, Rose, Nicole, William, Sheldon and Ellis for their incredible contributions to our community. Your passion, dedication, and countless hours of volunteer work make a real difference in District 4 and across HRM.

Thank you for inspiring others through your leadership and for helping make our municipality a stronger, more connected, and welcoming place for everyone.

September 2025

### STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regional Council is using a new system for electronic streaming. To find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view.

Meetings will still be live-streamed, and videos will be available after the meeting.

### CONTACT



Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **trish.purdy@halifax.ca** or **(902) 240-3067**.

For routine municipal matters, please call our **Citizen Contact Centre at 311**.

To reach my office, please call Andrea Rowan at **(902) 490-7184**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).